

Appl. No. 10/606,086
Amdt. dated Feb. 28, 2008
Reply to Office action of Nov. 28, 2007

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-13. (canceled)

14. (currently amended) A method of managing transactions with multiple affiliates each having an affiliate computer and an affiliate database connected thereto, which method comprises the steps of:

providing a central exchange including an exchange server and an exchange database connected thereto;

storing in said exchange database information corresponding to goods and/or services available for sale and/or requested to purchase by one or more affiliates;

maintaining a rules set with said central exchange for affiliates individually identifying goods and/or services to be shown on their respective websites and the websites of other affiliates

said affiliates specifying in said rules set transaction conditions with respect to goods and/or services made available thereby for transactions with other said affiliates via said distributed network;

said affiliates controlling said rules set;

connecting said exchange server to the affiliate computers via a distributed network;

storing in said affiliate databases information corresponding to goods and/or services;

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uploading to said central database said affiliate database information corresponding to goods and/or services available for transactions via the distributed network; conducting real-time transactions involving said goods and/or services in said exchange database across said distributed network via said distributed network; providing Internet (world wide web) access to said exchange server; providing a web page and linking same to said affiliate computers; providing a web-based bulletin board and access thereto by said affiliates; posting to said web-based bulletin board information concerning goods and/or services available for purchase and/or requested to purchase through the central exchange; preprogramming said central exchange with said transaction conditions applicable to said affiliates and conducting transactions across said distributed network via said distributed network according to said preprogrammed conditions; conducting affiliate-to-affiliate transactions with respect to said goods and/or services across said distributed network via said distributed network; and said affiliates uploading their respective inventories of goods and/or services to the exchange and conducting real-time transactions with other affiliates across said distributed network pursuant to said predetermined terms and conditions via a web inventory sharing function of the distributed network; reporting data with respect to said affiliate-to-affiliate transactions across said distributed network to said central exchange;

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said distributed network handling affiliate-to-affiliate transactions with respect to goods and/or services and for recording, reporting and storing data with respect to said transactions;
providing a special order system enabling affiliates to sell non-inventory goods and/or services not in their possession;
receiving via the distributed network purchase requests for said non-inventory goods and/or services;
distributing via the distributed network purchase requests for said non-inventory goods and/or services;
sending an affiliate purchase request from a selling affiliate to said exchange server via a web service;
said exchange server parsing and building request documents;
said exchange server sending said request back to said selling affiliate;
said originating affiliate sending goods and/or services information to said exchange server concerning said request;
said exchange server sending selling information concerning said goods and/or services to a buying affiliate;
said buying affiliate confirming purchase to said exchange service;
said exchange service sending a transaction confirmation to said buying affiliate; and
said buying affiliate sending a transaction confirmation to said exchange service.

15. (canceled)

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16. (original) The method according to claim 14, which includes the additional

steps of:

enabling affiliate control of splitting of grouped goods and/or services according to predetermined procedures; and offering such grouped goods and/or services according to such predetermined procedures.

17. (original) The method according to claim 14, which includes the additional steps of:

enabling affiliate control of credit card purchasing of goods and/or services from other affiliates; and inputting to said central exchange credit card information from said affiliates for use in connection with affiliate-to-affiliate transactions.

18. (canceled)

19. (original) The method according to claim 14 wherein said goods and/or services comprise tickets to entertainment and/or sports events.

20. (original) The method according to claim 14 wherein said tickets are specified for purchase by a purchasing affiliate by event, venue, date and seating section.